



GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reid 4-25-16/1cm

March 14, 2016

Instructional Quality Commission
Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite #5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Treatment of Armenian Genocide in History-Social Science Framework

Dear Commissioners:

We would like to express our gratitude to the Instructional Quality Commission for the recent changes related to the treatment of the Armenian Genocide in the History-Social Science Framework. We also join the Genocide Education Project ("GenEd") and the Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region ("ANCA-WR") in urging you to consider incorporation of two additional changes to the framework as articulated below:

1. The addition of language to the Eleventh Grade U.S. History section regarding the unprecedented U.S. humanitarian response to the Genocide, largely through the efforts of the first U.S. Congressionally sanctioned humanitarian organization, the Near East Relief; and
2. The addition of language to the Tenth Grade World History section regarding the connection between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust.

The Commission clearly took calls made by the GenEd and ANCA-WR seriously as it relied upon their analysis and incorporated much of the language which they had recommended to the Grade Ten chapter. These two organizations made further recommendations on November 30, 2015, December 8, 2015, and February 17, 2016 - found online at www.ancawr.org/CAGenocideEducation, which may not have been received in time to be considered for the December 2015 draft released by the IQC.

By incorporating the recommended language into the framework, the Commission would promote critical thinking as students study the interconnections between historical events. It would also ensure that one of the shining moments of our nation's history—the U.S. response to the Armenian Genocide—is included among the lessons which they are taught. We would thus be providing a valuable teaching tool for teachers in espousing a set of ethics and values which are inherent to an engaged citizenry and democratic society.

It is our responsibility to ensure that future generations of Californians learn that a tremendous positive impact can be made through our collective efforts so that a sense of civic duty and responsibility becomes further engrained in their consciousness. Once again, we thank you for having been so receptive and having taken action to correct and improve the language within the framework, and we ask you to consider the two additional proposals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Shawn".

Joel Shawn
Co-Interim Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Winger".

Marc Winger
Co-Interim Superintendent